

## Lesson @ Masjid al Salaam, Logan, Queensland, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2018

### Topic 1 – Defining Islam

### Topic 2 - Misunderstanding the Meaning of the Shahada - لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

### Topic 1 – Defining Islam

Surah Al Imraan (3:19) -

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ

**Indeed, the religion in the sight of Allah is Islam. (Sahih Int).**

Surah Al Imraan (3:85) -

وَمَنْ يَبْتَغِ غَيْرَ الْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا فَلَنْ يُقْبَلَ مِنْهُ وَهُوَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ

**And whoever desires other than Islam as religion - never will it be accepted from him, and he, in the Hereafter, will be among the losers. 3:85**

A hadith narrated by Abdallah ibn Umar (رضي الله عنهم), found in Sahih Bukhari informs us that Islam has been built upon 5 pillars. However, the question is, do we truly understand what Islam is and what it entails?

Unfortunately, many of those who are engaged in dawah (دعوة - proselytizing of Islam) can not define Islam as it has been defined in the Qu'ran and the sunna. When a da'ee, a caller to Islam, doesn't understand the meaning of Islam, clearly this is very problematic. If one can not define the term Islam one is not fit to give dawah.

### **Mufasiroon, Muhadithoon and Fuqaha – How did they define the term Islam?**

Islam, as defined by the Qu'ran and sunna, does not mean peace. Rather, Islam means -

1. Submission to Allah (سبحانه و تعالى) with tawhid (singling out Allah (سبحانه و تعالى) in His actions, singling out Allah (سبحانه و تعالى) in the actions that he does in relation to ibadah, and singling out Allah (سبحانه و تعالى) in relation to His beautiful names and perfect attributes)
2. Compliance to Allah (سبحانه و تعالى) with obedience.
3. Freeing oneself of shirk and its people. (Look at the example of prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام)

Surah Al Imraan (3:67) -

مَا كَانَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ يَهُودِيًّا وَلَا نَصْرَانِيًّا وَلَكِنْ كَانَ حَنِيفًا مُسْلِمًا وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ

**Abraham was neither a Jew nor a Christian, but he was one inclining toward truth, a Muslim [submitting to Allah]. And he was not of the polytheists. 3:67**

Christians and Jews do not submit to Allah (سبحانه و تعالى) with tawhid.

Freeing yourself from shirk and its people means your loyalty and allegiance is to the Muslims and your hate is directed towards those who ascribe partners with Allah (سبحانه و تعالى).

**“Knowledge precedes statement and action”** - a saying of Imam Bukhari.

**“Someone who does not have something can not give it”** - famous Arabic saying.

Thus, one can't guide people to Islam if they can not define Islam.

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## Topic 2 - Misunderstanding the Meaning of the Shahada - لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

It has been narrated from a scholar that the one who doesn't understand the meaning of the shahada will be ignorant in understanding the meaning of tawhid.

There have been many errors in relation to translation of this shahada due to translators -

1. Lacking knowledge of the source language i.e. Arabic.
2. Lacking knowledge of the target language i.e. in this case English.
3. Not having a background in knowledge of the shariah.

The translation, **“There is no god but Allah”** – is not an accurate translation of the shahada.

لا – La - relates to one negating and disbelieving in everything that is worshipped other than Allah (سبحانه و تعالى). This is called kufr bi taghout. إله - Ilah – is often translated into the English language as god, which is incorrect according to the experts of the Arabic language. Rather this term, ilah, relates to the term deity.

Connotations of the term god are problematic because it can be ascribed a gender (i.e. goddess, godfather) and god with a small 'g' relates to an image of a deity or an idol – and clearly Allah (سبحانه و تعالى) is above such ascriptions. Furthermore, the scholars have stated that if a word can have both a good and bad meaning, this word can not be used for Allah (سبحانه و تعالى). Thus, the word god / God can not be used for Allah (سبحانه و تعالى). Rather ilah in this case relates to deity and is the closest translation of this word into the English language.

According to the mufasiroon, the word ilah, when it is used for other than Allah (سبحانه و تعالى), is used on the basis of reality i.e. on the face of this earth, there are deities other than Allah (سبحانه و تعالى) that are worshipped. However, all of these are worshipped upon baatil (باطل - falsehood), yet Allah (سبحانه و تعالى) is worshipped upon haq (حَقّ - truth).

The correct translation of the shahada in the English language is -

**“There is no deity worthy of worship, in truth, except Allah”.**

Any other translation of the shahada is ignorant of the context of the term ilah as used in the Qu'ran and sunna, ignorant of the Arabic and English languages and ignorant of aqidah.

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Side Note – From the adab (أدب – Islamic etiquette) of any majlis (place of sitting – مجلس) is that if the presenter asks you a question, you answer it as best you can.